



Department of Justice

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FORMER MIAMI COUNTY MAN TO SERVE 18 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR FAILURE TO REGISTER AS SEXUAL OFFENDER

DAYTON – Kenneth Larry Belcher, II, age 30 and a former resident of Miami County, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to serve 18 months imprisonment followed by five years of supervised release for failing to register as a sexual offender.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, James M. Wahrab, United States Marshal, Southern District of Ohio, and Miami County Sheriff Charles A. Cox announced the sentence handed down today by United States District Judge Thomas M. Rose.

In November 2006, Sheriff Cox obtained an arrest warrant for Belcher. U.S. Marshals found and arrested Belcher on May 24, 2007, in Dublin, Indiana.

Belcher had been convicted of sexual battery and corruption of a minor in October, 2000 in Miami County Common Pleas Court and sentenced to prison. Belcher was released from the custody of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections in April 2006, and was instructed by corrections personnel to report to the Sheriff's office in his county of residence to register as a sex offender within five days of his release from prison. Belcher failed to register as required under Ohio law.

Belcher was the first person prosecuted in southern Ohio under the Sexual Offender Registration and Notification Act which is part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act passed by Congress in 2006. Belcher pled guilty on August 9, 2007.

"This case proves that the law boosts the cooperative efforts by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to keep communities safe by tracking sex offenders," Lockhart said. "The Adam Walsh Act assures that offenders can't slip from state to state in order to evade registration requirements."

The law directs federal resources to the tasks of rounding up sex offenders and helping state and local governments catch convicted individuals who failed to register in communities where they live, work, or go to school.

Lockhart commended the investigation by deputy U.S. Marshals and Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, who prosecuted the case.

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